

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the title with the following rewritten title.

--A Novel NI16 Gene[[s]] Encoding a Protein[[s]] Involved In The Regulation Of SAR Gene Expression In Plants--

Please replace the abstract with the following rewritten abstract.

-- The *Arabidopsis* NI16 ~~and NI19 gene~~[[s]] ~~are was~~ isolated in a yeast 2-hybrid screen via its ~~their~~ interaction with the NIM1 protein. ~~and The NI16 gene encodes a~~ protein[[s]] involved in the regulation of SAR gene expression in plants. NI16 is strongly induced in NIM1-overexpressing plants treated with benzo(1,2,3)thiadiazole-7-carbothioic acid *S*-methyl ester (BTH). ~~Homologues of the NI16 gene from potato and tomato are also provided. The NIM1 interactors~~NI16 can be expressed in transgenic plants, either alone or in combination with the NIM1 protein, to increase expression of SAR genes such as PR-1. ~~The nucleic acid sequence of the *Arabidopsis* NI16 promoter is also disclosed herein.~~--